

From: Bill Gascoyne
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 1:03pm
Subject: Why is Microsoft not being punished?

To whom it may concern:

Microsoft is an unrepentant monopolist. The currently proposed settlement is nowhere near harsh enough. It makes only weak provisions to correct Microsoft's behavior, and does nothing to punish Microsoft's past behavior.

There is no provision to try to undo the damage that Microsoft has done to its partners and competitors, and there is no incentive for Microsoft to repent its past wrongdoings in any way whatsoever.

Microsoft still does not admit to being a monopoly, despite the fact that the court has found it to be one. Based on past behavior, it seems obvious that Microsoft will seek any and all means to continue business as usual, and the currently proposed settlement provides for very few barriers for Microsoft to do so.

Through its monopoly practices, Microsoft has established file formats that are both proprietary and de-facto standards. No competition is possible under such circumstances for word processing, spreadsheets, or presentation material.

Microsoft should be made to reveal much of its source code, and be made to open its file formats so that competing products can be introduced to compete with the defacto standards of programs like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

If this is done, someone will no doubt write such programs for the Linux OS, and then we'll see how well a bug-infested product like Windows does against real competition!

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